



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

June 6, 2008

Reply To  
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 03-070-AFS

Mr. Ryan Falk. Program Manager  
Prairie City Ranger District  
P.O. Box 337  
Pairie City, OR 97869

Dear Mr. Falk:

The EPA has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Crawford Project Timber Harvest, Fuel Treatments, and Road Closure Activities on the Malheur National Forest in Oregon in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Malheur National Forests (the Forest) is proposing to treat the Crawford Project area to 1) Promote a change in species composition and structure; 2) Decommission and close roads to reduce the risk of sedimentation reaching streams while meeting public and administrative access needs; 3) Adjust old growth boundaries to meet Malheur Forest Plan standards; 4) Capture the economic value of trees to provide wood products and jobs; 5) Develop future and late old structural single stratum wildlife habitats; 6) Reduce fire fuels; and 7) Implement the Highway 26 and Highway 7 Viewshed Corridor Plans. The proposed action would treat approximately 5,300 acres within the 14,950 acre project area.

In our January 8, 2007 letter on the draft EIS, we raised concerns related to sediment impacts from roads, apparent discrepancies within the document related to the number and location of road miles, and cost and timing of restoration measures. We appreciate the efforts you and your staff have taken to address these questions. In particular, we appreciate the updates to the "Road Closure Decommissioning" section and the attendant clarifications to road-related actions. Based on the information provided, we fully support the proposed changes to the forest road system.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this final EIS. If you have questions or comments, please contact Teresa Kubo (503) 326-2859 or myself at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit